

Acknowledgements

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Attention Rapanuiphiles: an "Unofficial Easter Island Home Page" is on the net. The URL is <http://www.netaxs.com/~trance/rapanui.html>. The Page is created by Rapanuiphile David Brookman of Philadelphia. Check it out.

Pacific Ocean Area Numeral Names Compared

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When I traveled to Peru last winter on my way to Rapa Nui, I noticed that the names for numbers from one-to-ten in the ancient South American languages, Aymara and Quechua, had no relationship to any Polynesian languages. This was another piece of fortifying evidence that the language and people of Rapa Nui did not originate from South America.

I worked up a table that shows the conformity or degrees of non-conformity of selected island languages across the Pacific. This is not a flashpoint of information to a Pacific scholar. It is, however, corroborative data for a neophyte Rapanuiphile or student of the Pacific. (see page 21)

The names of numerals in the languages of the Polynesian Bloc are conformal; those of Indonesia, Melanesia and Micronesia in the west are somewhat less-conformal; and those in the east (South America) are non-conformal. Spanish is not included since it was a relatively newcomer; introduced at the time of Spanish conquest c. 1540.

During my research, I found that similar language comparisons had been made by Sheldon Dibble (*A History of the Sandwich Islands*, 1843) and Abraham Fornander (*An Account of the Polynesian Race - Its Origins and Migrations*, 1877). However, they did not include any South American languages.

The distance between the farthest islands, Indonesia (Sulawesi) and Rapa Nui is about one-third the circumference of the earth (8,500 statute miles). The distance from Rapa Nui to the South American coast is about 2,300 statute miles.

The Polynesian migration dates are from the September 1995 National Geographic Society's Double Map Supplement of Hawaii and Rediscovering Hawaii. A map inset (Voyages of Discovery) fine-tunes previous NGS migration data used over 20-years ago (December 1974).

The Aymara and Quechua are South American Indian tribes who, from earliest times, have occupied the central Andean highlands around the Lake Titicaca Basin in southern Peru and western Bolivia. They were part of the Inca empire until the time of the Spanish conquest. The Quechua language even prevails today in Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Chile and northwest Argentina. It has been named an official language by Peru and is estimated to be spoken by eleven million people.

PACIFIC OCEAN AREA NUMERAL NAMES COMPARED

(Names of numbers in bold are similar)

WEST			P O L Y N E S I A N							B L O C			EAST		
Indonesia*	NG*	Chuuk*	Fiji*	Tonga	Samoa	Tuvalu	Marquesas	Rapa Nui	Hawaii**	Tahiti	Cook Is.	NZ	Aymara***	Quechua***	
(Areas of origin)			*** (Staging area 120BC)					(AD300)	(AD400-500)	(AD300-600)****	(AD800)	(AD850)	(AD800-1000)	(Pre-Spanish conquest)	
1	satu	tika	iota	tasi	taha	fasi	tahi	tahi	kahi	tahi	tai	tahi	maya	uc	
2	dua	roa	rua	rua	lua	lua	ua	rua	lua	rua	rua	rua	paya	iscay	
3	tiga	tola	tolu	toru	tolu	tolu	to'u	toru	kolu	toru	toru	toru	quimsa	quimsa	
4	empat	fata	tia	fa	fa	fa	ha	haa	ha	aha	aa	wa	pusi	tahua	
5	lima	lima	lima	rima	lima	lima	ima	rima	lima	rima	rima	rima	pisca	plchcca	
6	enam	wama	honu	ono	ono	ono	ono	ono	ono	ono	ono	ono	sojta	soccta	
7	tujuh	fitu	fisu	fitu	fitu	fitu	fitu	hitu	hiku	hitu	itu	witu	pacallico	ccauchis	
8	delapau	wala	waru	varu	valu	valu	va'u	varu	walu	varu	varu	waru	qimsacallcc	pusacc	
9	sembilan	siwa	hivo	iva	iva	iva	iva	hiva	twa	iva	iva	lwa	llallunca	iscon	
10	sepuluh	sargafula	sigu	ejini	angafulu	sengaful	sefulu	onohu	anahuru	'umi	ahuru	angauru	angahuru	tunca	chunca
IN	3	8	8	9	10	10	10	10	9	10	10	10	0	0	

* In the WEST, Indonesia, New Guinea and Fiji (Melanesia) and Chuuk (Micronesia) are added for comparisons. Many similarities are indicated.

** In the EAST, the ancient South American languages of the Incas, Aymara and Quechua, are also added for comparison. No similarities are indicated.

*** Polynesian migration dates are from National Geographic Society map (Sept 1995). Theories on routes and dates still in flux by archaeologists.

**** First migration to Hawai'i came from the Marquesas. The second migration came from Tahiti between AD 1000-1300.

NOTES:

- NG=New Guinea, Chuuk=Truk in the Carolines (Micronesia), Tuvalu=former Ellice Islands, Cook Is.=Rarotonga, NZ=New Zealand.
- "Umi" in Hawaiian is the numeral ten, however, the conforming word is 'anahulu' which means "a period of ten days"; "for ten days"; "to pass ten days" (Pukui/Elbert Hawaiian Dictionary, 1971).
- IN = Index Number. The number of names that are conformal. All Polynesian = 10.
- The distance between the farthest islands, Indonesia and Rapa Nui (Easter Island), is about one-third the circumference of the earth.
- Distance between Rapa Nui and the South American coast is approximately 2,300 statute miles.
- Similar comparisons have been made by Dibble (A History of the Sandwich Islands, 1843) and Fornander (An Account of the Polynesian Race - Its Origins and Migrations, 1877). However, they did not include any South American languages.

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